

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 and 22 - 30 are pending.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C § 112, Claim Objection and Claim Amendments

Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to remove, respectively, the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph and the claim objection. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection and objection should be withdrawn. Additionally, Applicants have made other amendments to claim 8 to clarify the defined range. Applicants respectfully submit that none of these amendments narrow the scope of the claims. Non-rejected claim 5 has been made independent.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 10, 12 - 20 and 22 - 30 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,422,383 (Takahashi). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Takahashi fails to teach or suggest an absorber material comprising a laser-markable polymer. Takahashi's composite particles are made of an inorganic substance and a colorant physically bonded together. Neither improvement is a polymer in any form and certainly not in the form of irregular-shaped micromilled particles.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

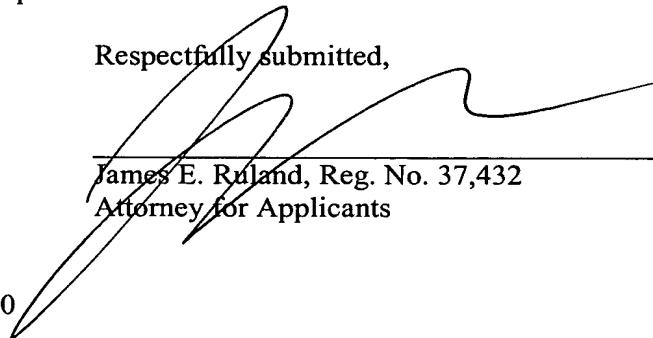
October 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2004

Page 8

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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